

In the claims:

Claims 1-3 (Canceled).

4. (Previously Amended) A restraints control module (RCM) for a vehicle comprising:

a memory device for storing a deployment time of a deployment event;

a controller electrically coupled to said memory device, said controller determining when to deploy a restraint, storing said deployment time, and storing in said memory device a fault time corresponding to said deployment time; and

a comparator electrically coupled to said controller, said comparator comparing said deployment time with a fault time and determining whether said fault time corresponds with said deployment time.

5. (Original) A module as in claim 4 further comprising an indicator electrically coupled to said controller and indicating when a deployment time corresponds with a fault time.

6. (Original) A module as in claim 5 wherein said indicator comprises at least one of: a pulsating indicator, a light bulb, an LED, a fluorescent light, an audible signal, a visual signal, a 7-segment display, an analog gage, a digital meter, a video system, and a hazard light.

7. (Previously Amended) A restraints control module (RCM) for a vehicle comprising:

a memory device for storing a deployment time of a deployment event;

a controller electrically coupled to said memory device, said controller determining when to deploy a restraint and storing said deployment time; and

an indicator electrically coupled to said controller, said indicator continuously indicating that the RCM has been on a vehicle that has been involved in a collision, until such time when the RCM is serviced or replaced.

8. (Previously Amended) A restraints control module (RCM) for a vehicle comprising:

a memory device for storing a deployment time of a deployment event;

a controller electrically coupled to said memory device, said controller determining when to deploy a restraint and storing said deployment time; and

an indicator electrically coupled to said controller, said indicator permanently indicating that the RCM has been on a vehicle that has been involved in a collision.

9. (Previously Amended) A restraints control module (RCM) for a vehicle comprising:

a memory device for storing a deployment time of a deployment event; and

a controller electrically coupled to said memory device, said controller determining when to deploy a restraint and storing said deployment time;

wherein said controller stores in said memory device a restraint power draw value during said deployment event.

Claims 10-11 (Canceled)

12. (Original) A restraints control module (RCM) for a vehicle comprising:

an indicator;

a memory device for storing a deployment start time of a deployment event; and

a controller electrically coupled to said indicator and said memory device, said controller determining when to deploy a restraint and storing said deployment start time and duration in said memory device;
said controller storing a fault time in said memory device and signaling said indicator when said fault time corresponds to said deployment start time and duration.

13. (Previously Amended) A module as in claim 12 wherein said indicator continuously indicating that the RCM has been on a vehicle that has been involved in a collision.

14. (Previously Amended) A module as in claim 12 further comprising a comparator electrically coupled to said controller, said comparator comparing said deployment time with a fault time and determining whether said fault time corresponds with said deployment time.

15. (Previously Amended) A module as in claim 12 wherein information stored in said memory device is uneraseable, unresettable, and unoverwritable.

Claim 16-21 (Canceled).

22. (Previously Amended) A method of time stamping and indicating a deployment event within an automotive vehicle having a RCM, said method comprising:

- sensing a collision;
- generating a collision signal in response to said collision;
- deploying a restraint in response to said collision signal;
- storing a deployment time; and
- storing restraint power draw during the deployment event.

23. (Previously Amended) A method of time stamping and indicating a deployment event within an automotive vehicle having a RCM, said method comprising:

sensing a collision;

generating a collision signal in response to said collision;

deploying a restraint in response to said collision signal;

storing a deployment time; and

continuously indicating a fault in response to the deployment event.

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